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A N
A C C O U N T
O F T H E
E f f e c t s o f S O A P - L Y E

T a k e n i n t e r n a l l y , f o r t h e S T O N E ,

I n t h e C A S E o f

J A M E S J U R I N , M . D .

[Price Six-pence.]

0784

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ACCOUNT

O F T H E

Effects of SOAP-LYE

Taken internally, for the STONE,

In the CASE of

JAMES JURIN, M. D.

Written by himself.

The SECOND EDITION.

With an APPENDIX concerning a new
Medicine for the Stone and Gravel.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. MANBY, and H. S. COX over-
against the *Old-Bailey* on *Ludgate-Hill*.

M. DCC. XLV.

ACCOUNT

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Business of the

Year ending

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The Case of JAMES JURIN, M. D.

FOR some Years past I have been incommoded with Gravel of the common red Sort, but by taking from Time to Time a Decoction of the purging Waters with Manna and *Glauber's* Salt, I generally got rid of it pretty easily, it not being often so large as to occasion any considerable Pain.

But having neglected to take this Medicine for about a Twelvemonth, or somewhat more, about *Christmas* 1740 I was seized with a severe nephritick Fit, accompanied, as usual, with frequent Vomiting. This held me for three or four Days, when, the Stone having passed the Ureter into the Bladder, the Vomiting and Pain ceased; and a Day or two after, upon taking my usual Purge, I voided a rugged, red Stone, of the Size of a small Pea.

I now thought the Affair was over, and went about my Business as usual. But in the Months of *January* and *February* following, I was troubled with an unusual frequent Provocation to make Water, especially

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when abroad in the Cold. This led me to reflect, that the Stone I had voided, was hardly big enough to occasion so severe a Fit, as I had suffered the *Christmas* before; and made me suspect, that, besides that small Stone, a larger might have passed the Ureter at the same Time, and might now be in the Bladder.

And in this Suspicion I was farther confirmed, upon finding towards the latter end of *February*, that my Urine would sometimes be suddenly stopped, while it was coming away in a full Stream; and that this Stoppage was accompanied with an uneasy Sensation at the Neck of the Bladder, as if a Stone had presented itself there, but was too big to pass. Another Remark I made was, that for almost two Months I had not voided any Gravel, contrary to my usual Custom for some Years past; and this made me think, that the fabulous Particles of my Urine, from which the Gravel had been usually formed, were now all bestowed in increasing the Bulk of the Stone by a constant Accretion. The Apprehension of this, and that the Stone would in a while become too big for being voided at all, put me upon using all the lenient Means I could think of for getting rid of it, but without Effect.

While

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While I was in this Condition, I had Occasion to go about 14 Miles out of Town, about the beginning of *March*, and upon driving very fast, and some part of the Way happening to be a little rough, I felt a considerable Pain about the Neck of the Bladder, which gradually increasing upon me, with a violent Provocation to make Water, upon getting out of the Coach, I found I made bloody Water to such a Degree, that it looked as if it were almost all Blood; and this happened to me several times, before I got to my Journey's End, the last part of which I was obliged to perform on Foot, not being able to bear the Coach any longer.

After staying two or three Hours, and having taken a Basin of Water-gruel with Honey dissolved in it, I set out on my Return Home; and by walking some Miles of the roughest part of the Way, I got to town with somewhat less Pain, than I had felt in going, though not without several times making bloody Water: But when I came upon the Stones, I could not bear the Motion of the Coach, by reason of the excessive Pain it occasioned, and was therefore obliged to get out and walk Home; which I did in great Pain, though much less than what I had had in the Coach.

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From this Time, I could not bear the Motion of my own Chariot upon the Stones, though not an uneasy one, being hung with the common Springs, without great Pain and making bloody Water, if I went any thing more than a Foot-pace : Nor could I walk to any considerable Distance, without the same Complaints, having sometimes made bloody Water upon walking only half a Mile, and that very gently. This I ascribed to the Effects of my Journey, in which the Coat of the Bladder having been much fretted and wounded by the Stone, it was thereby rendered susceptible of Injury from such Motion, as had not before put me to any Inconvenience. And that this was the true Reason, seemed to be confirmed from my bearing the slow Motion of the Chariot pretty well, when I first set out in a Morning, and my growing by Degrees more and more uneasy, the longer I used it; as likewise from my not failing to make bloody Water, in case I used it again in the Afternoon; so that in the Afternoons I was obliged either to walk, which I could only do very gently, and for a little Way, or else to make use of a Chair.

Being now fully persuaded, as well from what has been above related, as from several

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ral other Circumstances, that I had a Stone in my Bladder, and that too big to get rid of by ordinary Means, I began seriously to consider, what Course I should take to avoid being cut.

Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, I was sensible, had given great Relief to many Persons in my Condition ; and some Number had to Appearance been cured by them : But, on the other Hand, I considered, that of those who had died and been opened, after they were reported to be cured by taking her Medicines, there had not been one, but what had a Stone or Stones found in the Bladder. To this I added, that the Number of those, who had taken those Medicines ineffectually, was very great : And it fell in my Way, to be informed of not a few Instances of such, as after taking them for many Months together without any Benefit, had submitted to be cut, rather than go on any longer with a Medicine so extremely nauseous, and which had greatly increased their Pains, without bringing any thing away.

These Considerations, joined to the Knowledge I had of the Weakness of my own Stomach, which could ill bear any nauseous Medicines, especially in large Quantities, and often repeated, made me turn my Thoughts

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to the Lixivium, or Lye, of which Soap is made, by boiling it with Oil or Fat.

This Lixivium, I knew, had, notwithstanding it's caustick Quality, been taken without Inconvenience by several Persons; and though the good Effects of it, which had come to my Knowledge, were not very considerable, yet that, I thought, might be owing to the Smallness of the Dose it had been given in. And from a careful Perusal and Consideration of the Experiments, made by my ingenious and learned Friend, to whom the World is so much indebted upon this and many other Accounts, the Rev. Dr. *Stephen Hales*, I was greatly inclined to think, that the Virtue of the Soap resided principally in the Lye, from which it was made; and that the Efficacy of the Lye for dissolving the Stone, was rendered less, as well as the Medicine was made much more nauseous, and much more bulky, by the Addition of Oil or Fat to make it into Soap.

But an Experiment, which came a little nearer to my own Case, determined me to make Use of this Medicine. I mixed a Thea spoonful of the Lixivium, with about two Ounces of River Water, and by a cold Infusion in this Mixture, the Stone I had voided about *Christmas*, was dissolved in two Days.

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Resolving therefore to enter into a Course of this Medicine, I began it upon the 6th or 7th of *March*, 1740. for I kept no Journal, and continued it constantly for above six Months, when by the Blessing of God, I found myself perfectly cured. But in order to make this Relation as useful as I can, I shall particularly describe

I. The Sort of Lixivium I used.

II. The Dose.

III. The Vehicle I took it in.

IV. The Regimen I observed.

V. The Observations I made during the Use of it, and the Success.

I. The Lixivium, or Lye, which I at first made use of, was what is commonly called the Capital Soap Lees, of a due Strength for making Soap, which is about one sixth part specifically heavier than River Water; of this I took in all about six Ounces. What I afterwards took and constantly kept to, was the Lixivium of the first running. This is much stronger both of the Lime and Potash, than the Capital Soap Lees, it being, when clear, above one fifth part specifically heavier than River Water; and if it be taken up before it be settled, as was

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done for me, is so full of Lime as to look milky: but after standing some Time, most of the Lime falls to the Bottom in a large Sediment, leaving the Liquor clear. This I always shook up, when I used it, so as to take the Liquor white and turbid; which I did from an Opinion, that the Virtue of the Medicine lay principally in the Lime, it appearing from *Dr. Hales's* Experiments, as well as from some since made by myself, that a strong Lime Water alone will dissolve the Stone out of the Bladder, whereas a Lye from the Pot-ash alone does nothing towards it. Nor do I think it unlikely, that quick Lime alone taken in a proper Vehicle, may dissolve the Stone in the Bladder, without other Assistance.

II. The Dose I at first took, was twenty Drops twice a Day, from which, finding no Inconvenience to my Stomach or Bowels, on the second Day I took the same Dose three times: I then proceeded, by adding every Day ten Drops to each Dose, to take thirty, forty, fifty, sixty Drops, three times a day. I then gave over dropping the Lixivium, and took a Thea spoonful three times a Day, in a Vehicle somewhat larger than before; then the same Quantity four times a Day;

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a Day; and soon after I came to take two Thea spoonfuls at a Dose, twice a Day, and one at a Dose, two other times a Day, to which Quantity I arrived before the end of *March*, and continued it for above five Months: But now and then I went farther, taking seven, eight, nine Thea spoonfuls in a Day, sometimes by taking the Medicine oftener, and sometimes by taking three Thea spoonfuls for one Dose. The Thea Spoon I used, held 114 Drops of the Lixivium from a small vial; and as I poured into the Thea Spoon till it ran over, each Tea spoonful was at least 120 Drops; so that I took usually 720 Drops in the Day, and sometimes 840, 960, or 1080. But as this is a very uncertain Way of measuring, because a Drop of any Liquor is larger, or smaller, in Proportion to the Surface it hangs by, it may be of more Use to observe, that an Ounce Troy of the Lixivium, thick and milky as I took it, makes nearly six Thea spoonfuls and an half; so that I usually took about an Ounce Troy each Day, and sometimes an Ounce and a quarter, or an Ounce and an half.

As for the Times of taking the Medicine, I could by no means be regular, on account of my Business; and therefore took the largest
Doses

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Doses at my Dinner and Supper, one of the smaller ones at Breakfast, and the rest at such Times as I happened to be at home.

III. The Vehicles I used, were of various kinds; in the Morning sometimes Milk and Thea sweetned with Honey, balsamick Syrup, or Sugar; sometimes Milk and Lime-Water sweetned in the same manner: in the Afternoon sometimes the same Liquors as in the Morning, sometimes Lime-water and Honey, with a Glass of Sack, which made it fit better on my Stomach, and sometimes Small-beer only. What I used at Dinner and Supper, was a Mixture of Small-beer and common sweet Ale from the Ale-house. Into a Glass holding about three quarters of a Pint, I put my Dose of two, or sometimes three Thea spoonfuls of Lye; then filled the Glass with about equal Parts of the two Liquors, and after the first Draught, which was disagreeable enough, I added more Small-Beer and Ale, which made the second and third Draught no way offensive.

IV. The Regimen I observed, was only to abstain from every thing, that could be suspected of lessening the Efficacy of my Medicine; which being highly alkaline, I forbore

bore all Vinegar, Fruit and Wine, except now and then one Glafs of Sack, or other sweet Wine, which I was sometimes obliged to take with the Lime-Water and Honey in an Afternoon, as above-mentioned. In all other Things I observed no Regimen, living upon common Food of all Kinds, and for Exercise, my Business gave me as much and more than I could well bear.

V. During this Course,

1. The first Observation I made was, that the Provocations to make Water were more frequent and pressing than before, as also that I had more Pain in making it, and especially after it was made; but this I bore with Patience, it being naturally to be expected from so sharp a Medicine, coming into a Bladder fretted and wounded by the Stone, as mine was by the constant Use of the Chariot. To obviate this as well as I could, I made use of all the Springs that have been invented, both within and without the Chariot, notwithstanding all which, I could only go a Foot-pace upon the Stones, and could hardly ever use it twice a Day, without making bloody Water.

2. My

2. My second Observation, which gave me great Comfort amidst the Pains I endured, and which, from the Beginning of the Course, I had constantly attended to and waited for, was, that upon my coming to take three or four Thea spoonfuls of the Lye in a Day, my Water did not at all furr the Chamber-pot, as usual, how long soever it was suffered to stand therein. This made me not only conclude, that I was safe from any farther increase of the Stone, but also gave me Hopes, that it was now beginning to dissolve. For it was reasonable to think, that whatever could prevent the fabulous Matter, from precipitating and concreting in the Chamber-pot, when the Water was cold, must not only hinder its doing so, while warm within the Bladder, but must also be acting upon the Stone towards a Dissolution. This Observation therefore I would particularly recommend to all Persons, who shall enter into a like Course.

3. Soon after, I had the Pleasure of observing an oleaginous coloured Film, upon the Surface of the Urine, after it had stood some Hours, and likewise a calcareous Sediment, in pretty large Quantity, at the Bot-
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tom. This had the Appearance of a Confirmation of Dr. *Hales's* Hypothesis, that the Particles of the Lime and Pot-ash dissolve the Stone, by licking off that oily Substance, which is the Band of Union to the fabulous Particles, I flattering myself with the Imagination, that the oleaginous Film arose from that oily Substance, which had before bound the Particles of the Stone together; and that the calcareous Sediment consisted partly of those Particles, now loosened from the Surface of the Stone, and partly of the Particles of the Lime, which, upon the Water's cooling, might have separated from the oleaginous Particles, which composed the Film, just as the Particles of the Ochre separate from those, which compose the coloured oleaginous Film, in *Tunbridge* and other chalybeate Waters, upon standing some Time exposed to the open Air. But here it is to be observed, that Lime-water alone, upon standing exposed to the Air, will contract such a coloured Film upon the Surface.

4. The next Observation I made was, that my Urine would sometimes be whitish and turbid, when first made, especially what was discharged three or four Hours after taking my largest Dose: And this Urine deposited

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deposited a calcarious Sediment in larger Quantity, and the oleaginous Film upon the Surface was thicker than before. This gave me great Hopes of being speedily rid of my Complaint. For I had great Reason to think, that I had no Stone in the Bladder, but what had passed the Ureter about *Christmas*, and consequently could have had little more than two Months Growth in the Bladder, before I began with my Medicine: Forasmuch as the only nephritick Fit I had had, was that about *Christmas*, and I could be pretty sure, I had no Stone in the Bladder before that Time, as having been obliged to take frequent Journeys out of Town, the latter end of the Year, when I had drove very fast, in a rough hung Chariot, such as are usually kept for Hire, without suffering any Pain or Inconvenience. So that if the Stone were but a little wasted, there was Reason to think, it would be rendred small enough to pass the Urethra.

5. About the latter end of *June*, I grew sensibly easier, and from the beginning of *July* I felt no Pain, though I had as yet voided no Flakes, nor Bits of Stone, nor any thing more than the calcarious Matter above-mentioned. I could now not only go about

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in my own Chariot, but did once or twice go in another much less easy, without Pain, or bloody Water.

6. On the tenth of *July* I voided a small, smooth Stone, nearly of the Shape and Size of an Oat, which came away so imperceptibly, that had I not at that Time made use of a Chamber-pot, I should not have known that I had voided it. This Stone was of a reddish colour, but paler than the Gravel I had formerly been used to void: Its Surface was very smooth, and was penetrated with small roundish Holes, much like those made in Books or in Wood when Worm-eaten.

On the 21st of the same Month I voided a second Stone, shorter, but of more than twice the Diameter of the former; in Colour, Smoothness of Surface, and Perforations, like the other. This I plainly perceived, when it was passing, but with little or no Pain.

August the 6th I voided a third Stone, somewhat less than the second, but like it in all other Respects. And about the Beginning of *September* I passed another much smaller, about the Size of a Corking-pin's Head.

Each

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Each of these Stones was dissolved in two or three Days, by a cold Infusion in strong Lime-water.

Some Time after voiding the last of these Stones, as I now thought myself quite well, being able to bear a Hackney Coach, or the roughest hired Chariot, upon the Stones, or to walk three or four Miles, and sometimes more, without the least Inconvenience, I began to abate of the Quantity of my Medicine, coming from six or more, to four, afterwards to three, and then to two Thea spoonfuls in a Day. Now also I drank red Wine moderately, and eat fruit, and used Vinegar, as before my Illness: And for the greatest part of *October* and *November*, I forbore any Use of the Medicine, when I found my Urine again furr'd the Chamber-pot, and I sometimes voided a little small Gravel, as I had formerly been accustomed.

But in *December* last, upon using a very rough Chariot for some Days, while my own was repairing, I had a little return of my former Complaints, upon which I returned to the Use of the Lixivium, taking three Thea spoonfuls, or near half an Ounce in a Day, and having done this for about a Week, I voided a small, rough, reddish Stone, and then was perfectly easy. Since

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which, I continue to take two Thea spoonfuls in a Day, in Small-beer and Ale, or Small-beer with a Glafs of Sack or sweet Mountain, which Quantity I find pretty generally keeps my Urine from furring the Chamber-pot, and therefore, I hope, may be sufficient to prevent the Generation of fresh Gravel, either in the Kidneys, or in the Bladder.

From the Severity of the Pains I had undergone, and the Smoothness of the three Stones I voided in *July* and *August*, I make no doubt but they had once been much larger. Nor is it improbable, that I might have voided several others, besides what are abovementioned. For as some of those came away insensibly, and others with no more Pain, than what I often had, in making Water only, it is not likely, that all should come away, when I used a Chamber-pot, and none at other times, especially as I was usually absent from home for great part of the Day.

But whether those I voided, had originally been distinct Stones, or Parts of one larger Stone, cannot easily be determined; though I must needs say, I incline to the latter Opinion: And it is not difficult to conceive, how the medicated Urine, after eating

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out the more soluble Parts of a Stone, answering to the Perforations above-mentioned, might afterwards corrode the Partitions between those Perforations, and thereby reduce a large Stone into several smaller: And then the Edges and thinner Parts of these being dissolved, while the thicker Parts were less wasted, they might easily be brought to the Form they were voided in.

I shall not pretend to make any Deductions from this Case, as it is a single one, and not yet corroborated by any other. But possibly this plain Relation of Matter of Fact, may give Encouragement to Physicians, to make farther Trial of the Medicine, and I heartily wish the like happy Success to all those, who shall hereafter have Occasion to make use of it.

Feb. 4. 1741-2.

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A P P E N D I X.

I HOPE it will not be unacceptable to the Publick, much less to any of my candid Brethren of the Faculty, if I take this Opportunity to inform them of what follows.

Though I was cured by taking the Soap-lye, and many other Persons, who took it by my Example, received great Benefit from it, I have since left it entirely off, for the following Reasons.

The Strength of it, even of that of the first running, was found to vary sometimes very considerably, notwithstanding the Direction I gave, to have it always, as nearly as possible, of the same Strength. And though I my self could pretty nearly judge of the Strength of every fresh Parcel, and could encrease, or lessen, accordingly, the Dose I took; yet this could not be done by my Patients, especially by those which I seldom or never saw, after I had once settled them in a proper Course of taking this Medicine.

But that was not all. The Soap-lye was often attended with a Smell and Taste so exceedingly offensive, that many Persons could not keep it upon their Stomachs, and were obliged to discontinue the Use of it upon that Account.

These Inconveniencies put me upon considering, whether a Medicine might not be made, from the same Ingredients, and consequently, of the same Virtue, with the Soap-lye, which yet might be constantly of the same Strength, or very nearly so, and might likewise be free from that nauseous Taste and Smell, with which the other is frequently accompanied.

After some Number of Trials, I at last happily accomplished this Design, by the Assistance of my Friend, Mr. *Littlebury*, Apothecary in *Broadstreet*, who carefully prepares the Medicine by my Direction.

Of him, Apothecaries, or others, may have it in any Quantity, and I think as cheap, if not cheaper than they can make it themselves, unless they were to make a large Quantity at once: And even then, it can hardly be so well made, except by one that frequently prepares it.

This, I hope, may apologise for my concealing the Manner of the Preparation: For

as to the Ingredients of the Medicine, every body knows them. I never before made a Secret of any thing in Physick, nor should I do it now, but that I am fully persuaded, the Medicine could neither be sold so cheap, nor would be generally so well prepared, if I were to publish it.

As it is a new Medicine, I have taken the Liberty of giving it a new Name, that of *Lixivium Lithontripticum*. Upon which an ingenious Person has remarked, that the latter Word should be writ without the *n*, pursuant to the Analogy of the Greek Composition. I cannot but say he is in the right, and yet, as the Word has been usually writ in this manner by Botanists and Physicians, I prefer the *Sic volet usus of Horace*, to the Analogy of this learned Critick.

This Medicine is what I have used for myself and Patients, instead of the Soap-lye, for a considerable Time past.

I find it to be of about the same Strength, as the Soap-lye of the first running, which I formerly used, and which is much stronger, perhaps four or five times stronger, than what is call'd the Capital Soap-lye.

I take it constantly myself, very rarely missing a Day, and believe I shall be obliged to continue the Use of it as long as I live.

For having made several Attempts to leave it off, I found by the time I had forborn it for two or three Days only, that my Chamber-pot began again to furr, and soon after, I began to void small Gravel. This obliged me to return immediately to my Medicine; for having suffered so much before, I durst not run the Hazard of having a new Stone generated.

About a third of an Ounce in every four and twenty Hours, is commonly sufficient to keep me clear of Gravel, when I abstain from all Acids, and from red Wine. But when I indulge my self in the Use of these, or when by Discontinuance of the Medicine, any small Gravel has been already formed, I find it necessary to take half, or sometimes two thirds of an Ounce, in that Time.

But to those, who are to get rid of a Stone, or Gravel of any considerable Bigness, I generally prescribe an Ounce, or thereabout, to be taken every Day, in three or four Doses; beginning with a Drachm Weight in a Dose, three times a Day, and encreasing it by Degrees.

To what is said above, about Vehicles to take it in, I shall only add, that a Glass of Sack in a Draught of Small-beer, disguises the Medicine beyond any thing I have try'd;

try'd; though *Malmsey-Madera*, or any other sweet Wine, will do almost as well. But this is to be done, when a Patient is arrived at the full Quantity of the Lixivium, and comes to take it in a Family Way: For at first I always direct it to be taken in some soft Vehicle, prepared by his Apothecary, and in nothing more frequently than the pectoral Decoction with Syrup of Marshmallows.

I can confidently recommend this Medicine in gravelly Cases, it not having failed in any one Instance, that I know of.

In case of a Stone in the Bladder, the Success is by no Means equally certain: But, I believe, this at least may be depended on, that while a Patient takes this Lixivium in due Quantity, the Stone will never grow bigger, and no new ones will be generated.

By the best Observation I have been able to make, the *Lixivium* does not always operate in the same Manner, but works very differently upon different Stones.

One Stone, for Instance, shall gradually moulder into Powder, which comes away with the Urine, and by this Means shall in Time become small enough to pass the Urethra, as happened to my self.

And in this Case, the Patient generally grows much easier, if not quite easy, before the Stone is voided; because the Surface of the Stone grows smoother, as it moulders away; and grows softer, before it moulders.

Another Stone, being, as I suppose, of a harder Nature, will likewise be gradually wasted by the Operation of the Medicine, but without any sensible Powder coming away, and without so much as the common Sediment appearing in the Urine, for Weeks, and even for Months together.

In this Case, I suppose, what is licked up from the Surface of the Stone, may be no more than what the medicated Urine is capable of suspending; as a Lump of Silver in *Aqua Fortis*, or a Piece of Sugar-candy in a Dish of Thea, will lose some Part of it's Bulk, and yet what is lost, will not appear in the Form of Powder, but be kept suspended in the clear Liquor.

But in this Case, as well as the former, I have known the Patient to become so easy, as to think himself perfectly cured; though I did not think so, because nothing sensible had been voided. The only Proof of a perfect Cure would be, that the Nucleus of the Stone was come away.

In these two Cafes, I imagine all Parts of the Surface of the Stone to be of the same Degree of Hardness; or if any Parts are softer, and more easily dissolvable than the rest, that such are of very small Extent, like the Pin-holes described in the Stones I voided.

But in the two following Cafes, I suppose some larger, and more considerable Parts of the Surface, to be more easily dissolved or corroded, than the rest.

For, thirdly, many Stones are wasted, not by a sensible, or insensible Powder licked up by the Menstruum; but by the falling off of Scales, or Shivers, which come away from Time to Time. And this I think cannot happen, unless the Edges, and under Parts of those Scales, are corroded sooner than the Substance of the Scale it self.

In this Case the Stone grows more unequal in it's Surface, than it was at first, being as it were honey-comb'd by the Separation of the Scales; and by this Means, as well as by the coming away of those Scales, whose Edges are commonly pretty sharp, the Patient must generally suffer more Pain than he did at first, and would always do so, were it not that the Asperities of the Surface of the Stone, and the Edges of the Scales,
are

are rendered softer by the Medicine, though they are not yet dissolved by it. Here Opiates are often necessary to ease the Pain, when very great: But when it is moderate, the Patient easily supports himself under it, by the Hope that the Stone, which grows gradually less, will in Time become small enough to pass the Urethra.

Besides these, there is a fourth Case, which I take to be exceedingly rare. I had one Instance of it in a Noble Person, but never saw, or heard of such another, and perhaps it may not happen again in one Calculus of ten thousand.

Here the Stone seemed to have been made up of several Pieces, joined together by intervening Veins, like a Fragment of a Wall, consisting of a Cluster of Bricks with Mortar between them: which Veins being first corroded, the Stone fell asunder into those several Pieces, which being sharp and angular, wounded the urinary Parts to such a Degree, as to cause a great Effusion of Blood. The Pieces of the Stone indeed came all away, but yet the Consequence proved fatal. For a great Part of the Blood coagulating within the Bladder, gave such an Impediment to the Passage of the Urine, that this Organ was distended

distended to a very great Degree; and having, by that Distention, lost it's Tone, could never afterwards contract itself to any less Dimension. The additional Urine, which from Time to Time came down from the Kidneys, was indeed involuntarily voided, and by Degrees carried away with it the greatest Part of the grumous Blood, so that the Passage became sufficiently free; but still there wanted a contractive Power in the Bladder, to discharge the Urine which distended it.

In this State of Things, several Attempts were made to draw off the Urine by the Catheter; but the Urethra had been so extremely torn and lacerated by the sharp Pieces of Stones in coming away, that the Instrument could not be got into the Bladder; which consequently continued distended to the Death of the Patient.

But this is a Case, which, as I said before, may not happen again in ten thousand.

I am sensible, that great Endeavours have been used to prejudice People against this Medicine, as if it were highly dangerous to the Constitution of such as take it. If those, who do this, have good Grounds for what

they assert, they are to be commended for warning their Friends against it. But if not, Honour and Humanity ought to restrain them, from running down a Medicine, that, for ought they know, may be highly serviceable to Mankind. I can truly say, I do not know of one Instance, where it has done real Prejudice to the Constitution; and I know but of one, where it has been suspected of having done so; and even in that, I think it was unjustly suspected.

But Opposition to new Things and new Practices, is not uncommon, nor perhaps without it's Use, in causing them to be thoroughly examined into, before they are generally received.

No Medicine, perhaps, that was ever introduced into Physick, met with stronger and longer continued Opposition, than the *Peruvian Bark*.

No Practice was ever more vehemently contested, than that of Inoculation.

And yet both the one and the other have since triumphed over all their Opposers.

And this Lixivium, if it be found of Service to Mankind, must and will do so likewise.

For my part, I firmly believe it will, so firmly, that I would desire to be remembered after Death, for nothing more, than the Share I have had in introducing the Practice of Inoculation, and this Lixivium.

Ringatur, quisquis ringitur Invidia.

It may be of Use, to add a Word or two more. I have met with and heard of a few Instances, of Persons, who by taking this Lixivium, or Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, for the Stone, have found themselves greatly relieved in their gouty Complaints. Nor is this much to be wondered at, those two Distempers being so near of Kin. For the *Tophi*, or Gout Stones, upon a Chymical Analysis, appear very little different from the Stone of the Kidney or Bladder; and dissolve as readily in this *Lixivium*.

I need not say, that this *Lixivium* is serviceable in other Cases, for which Soap is usually prescribed, particularly in the Jaundice. That will easily be allowed, if we consider, that it contains all the Ingredients of Soap, except the Oil: And that, if thought necessary, in order for purging, is easily added. But either without this Addition, or with it; the *Lixivium* is without
Com-

Comparison easier to take than the Soap; because we can upon Occasion put in a sweet, inoffensive Oil, instead of that rank and nauseous one which is contained in the Soap, after boiling.

In the History of my Case, I gave it as my Opinion, that the Virtue of the Soap-lye lay principally in the Lime, and that Quick Lime alone, taken in a proper Vehicle, might dissolve the Stone in the Bladder; and I am glad to see, that this Hint has been prosecuted by a Learned and ingenious Gentleman at *Edinburgh*. I shall briefly mention an Experiment I made upon my self.

Some Months after I was cured, I purposely forbore the Soap-lye for about a Week. Upon doing this, my Urine not only furr'd the Chamber-pot as much as ever, but I frequently voided small Gravel, especially when having made Water before, I did so again a few Minutes after, in order to empty the Bladder as much as I could.

I then made a sort of Cream with Quick Lime and fair Water, of such a Consistence, that it was barely liquid enough to pour out of a Vial.

Of this I took five or six Thea spoonfuls in a Day, in the same Manner, as I had before

before taken the Soap-lye, and was very attentive to the Effect of it.

I had not taken it three Days, before I found the Urine no longer furr'd the Chamber-pot; and upon this I made no doubt, but in a few Days more, I should be quite free from the Gravel, which indeed seemed manifestly to lessen a Day or two after. But on the fifth Day I found my self so excessively costive, beyond any thing I had ever experienced in my whole Life, that I was obliged to discontinue the Medicine upon that Account.

I have since repeated this Experiment, with much the same Success. Only, this Time, by the Use of Fruit, while I was taking the Cream, the Costiveness was not altogether so great as before.

But what I learned from these Trials, of the binding Quality of the Lime, to a Degree I never dreamt of before, has been of Use to me upon many other Occasions, and I doubt not but it will be so to other Physicians, to whose Consideration I do therefore heartily recommend it. I need not add, that where the too great Heat of the Calx may be suspected, that is easily remedied by repeated Ablutions.

Sept. 23, 1745.

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